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Campus Comment

VOL. XIX, NO. 2

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE AT BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 2, 1945

Durgin, Meier Return November 5

Wood, Math Instructor Leaves College Nov. 5

Mr. Frederick Wood, who has been teaching mathematics and economics at BTC will leave on November 5. Mr. Wood arrived on campus February 5, 1942 to replace Mr. George Durgin who had entered the armed services.

Mr. Wood received a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering, and a Master of Science degree in Mathematics from Brown University. He continued his studies towards a Doctor's degree at the University of Illinois.

Freshman Party Held To Determine Class Officers

The Freshman Party was held on November 2, in the Albert Gardner Boyden Gymnasium, for the purpose of electing the officers for the Freshman Class. The following girls were the committee heads in charge of the affair: Ann Macnamara, food; Marie Henry, hospitality; Phyllis Jones, entertainment; Mary R. Sullivan, equipment; Marie McGowan, decorations; Carol Hill, publicity and tickets; Lorraine Christian, cleanup.

Veteran Education Program Underway 10 Vets Now Enrolled At College

The State Department of Education has been working in cooperation with the local school authorities to bring about the pooling of educational resources toward furnishing the best possible training for every Massachusetts veteran. As yet, Massachusetts is the only state in the Union which does not deduct money from subsequent veteran's bonuses to provide this high school education. The courses taken by the ex-servicemen under this program are either straight correspondence courses, or modified correspondence courses, with some tutorial assistance. Upon completion of his work the veteran receives either a high school diploma from the town or city of his residence or an equivalent certificate from the Department of Education. The work covered is that of high school calibre, and may also be credited toward the first year of college.

Full Program Planned For Alumni Weekend

Alumni week-end will be off to a good start on Friday night, November sixteen, with 3 one-act plays presented by Dramatic Club, and followed by a social in the recreation room of Woodward Hall.

Saturday morning the schedule will be as follows: breakfast will be served in the Plymouth County Room; Conferences will be held; and time will be set aside for meetings of various clubs.

A luncheon will be served in Tillinghast, followed by a tea dance in the Albert Gardner Boyden Gymnasium.

The committees for Alumni Weekend are as follows: General Chairman, Lenore Kelly; Hospitality (Woodward), Edith Matthews; Hospitality (Administration Building), Grace Theberge; Breakfast Committee, Gertrude Gerstein; Luncheon Committee, Barbara Kane.

The committees for the tea dance are: General Chairman, Janice Burchard; Music, Edwina Montague; Hospitality, Lucille Paquette; Entertainment, Virginia Perkins; Equipment, Lillian Tassinari; Decorations, Edna Lahteine; Helpers, Alvarina Costa; and Food, Janet Allen.

Former BTC Instructors, War Veterans, To Resume Classes

Godfrey, Kelly, Walsh At WAA Conference

The seventeenth athletic conference of the Massachusetts Teachers Colleges was held at the Framingham Teachers College on October 25, 26, and 27. The Bridgewater delegates to the annual W.A.A. Conference arrived at the Horace Mann dormitory at about eight thirty on Thursday evening. They were Virginia Godfrey, Martha Walsh, and Lenore Kelly.

The three faculty members of the physical education department, Miss M. I. Caldwell, Miss Lois Decker, and Miss Mary J. Moriarty, who accompanied the student delegates, were rushed off to Crocker Hall soon after their arrival and did not re-appear until Friday morning.

(continued on page 4)

Epsilon Iota Chapter Of Kappa Delta Pi Initiates New Members

Epsilon Iota Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, a national honor society in education, will formally initiate sixteen new members at the annual initiation ceremony, which will be held on the evening of November 14.

The new members admitted this year are: seniors—Elizabeth Sheehan, Alice Toomey, Dorothy Christofori, Marjorie Mooney, Madeline Guzzi, Adele Boltz; juniors—Jean Crane, Janice Burchard, Ruth Anderson, Margaret Murphy, Dorothy Merrill, Edwina Montague, Barbara Scoble, Bernice Novick, Helen Smarsh, Elizabeth Roper.

Raymond, With AFS In India, To Return To BTC

Thomas O. Raymond, who, for the past year has been with the American Field Service, driving ambulances for the British 14th army is planning to return to BTC as soon as possible.

Mr. Raymond has spent most of his time in India, fighting through the Burma and Malay lines.

Two of BTC's most popular instructors will resume classes on November 5. Lieutenant-Commander George H. Durgin was mathematics instructor at the college up until December 27, 1941 when he secured a leave of absence to enter the office of Naval Procurement in Boston with the rank of Lieutenant (s.g.).

Captain Frederick A. Meier was former instructor of sciences and the director of men's physical education until August, 1942, when he entered the armed services and was at that time commissioned second lieutenant.

The "Original Wave"

When Lieutenant-Commander Durgin first undertook duty in June, 1942, he taught seamanship in the United States Naval Reserve Midshipman School in New York. The following September he became the Executive Officer at the first enlisted Waves School at Stillwater, Oklahoma. Lieutenant-Commander Durgin later drilled Waves in the Boot Training School for Waves in Bronx, New York, where he was the one bright spot in the life of many a Plymouth County girl.

At the termination of his work with the Waves, Lieutenant-Commander Durgin began to yearn, surprisingly, for contact with the masculine element. "I felt like a museum piece," he grinned, "and thought that pretty soon they would label me the 'Original Wave'."

From New York, Lieutenant-Commander Durgin was assigned to Pre-midshipman School in Norfolk, Virginia, and then to Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco Bay, where he was Officer in Charge of Receiving Barracks.

From his subsequent station in San Bruno, California, in February, 1945, Lieutenant-Commander Durgin was assigned to CUB 17, which had its headquarters at Okinawa.

When Lieutenant-Commander Durgin returned to Bridgewater, his family had moved to Cambridge so that his son could enter Brown and Nichols and one of his daughters could go to Radcliffe.

Lieutenant-Commander Durgin graduated from Harvard in 1915, and came to Bridgewater in 1926.

(continued on page 4)

So You Want A Cut System?

Since the open SCA meeting Friday, October 26, the subject of a cut system has been foremost in the minds of the student body of Bridgewater.

By cut system they mean the right to be absent from a class and chapel a certain number of times a semester per subject by merely turning in a cut slip. These cuts, of course, could not be taken on the days of exams or quizzes, and they would be utilized only when deemed necessary by the user, and would be chosen with prudence during the course of the year.

It is not our purpose to devise a plan of cutting; we are merely interested in the advisability or inadvisability of just such a system. The question of penalties imposed on those who overcut must also be taken into consideration. Whether marks should be lowered, cut privileges denied, or graduation requirements increased, again is a matter for a committee to decide.

At present, dormitory students say the only way they are permitted to be absent from class and be exempt from a failure in recitation is to secure what is termed as "excused absence". This may be had by legitimate or illegitimate sickness (let's be candid about it) or by an unexpected trip home for illness, death, or a wedding.

A commuter, on the other hand, if he so desires, may cut classes, hand in a reason which is unquestioned, and that is the end of the matter. Relying upon the discretion of the commuter, these absences are unlimited, and are assumed to be the result of illness.

Since the average age of students at Bridgewater ranges from approximately 18-20 years—which in the business world would be classified as adult—in their opinion it logically concludes that we should be treated as such. A student comes to BTC from high school with, presumably, that attitude of receiving what the college has to offer in the way of advanced education. If one of the aims of Bridgewater is to make a student think for himself, academically as well as socially, why is he not allowed to act at his own volition in the capacity of absenting himself from one, two, or three classes a semester?

We think it only fair at this point to provide a glimpse of the other side of the picture. Being only human, we realize the failings of the average person in the light that he is apt to become so involved with the affirmative he fails to take into account all the aspects of the negative.

To install a cut system at Bridgewater would perhaps necessitate the action taking place in the State Department to begin with and then going through the proper channels at Bridgewater. Perhaps the faculty would not approve of the system because of students missing unannounced exams and because they consider so many lectures vitally essential to their course.

Another point that should be brought to mind is the fact that in many colleges where the cut system is functioning an absence because of illness is considered a cut. A student then could use all his cuts on sickness because he was physically unable to attend classes.

If that arrangement were installed here, granted that we had a cut system, an unusually healthy person would benefit far more than an habitually unhealthy one.

The wheels have already commenced to turn in regard to this vital issue. Plans are underway for a committee to meet with President Kelly and the faculty in order to discuss the question.

Perhaps just the sound of a cut system appeals to us or maybe we have substantial reasons for desiring one—anyway, living in a democracy enables us to think as we choose. It also permits us to better our surroundings and strive to attain what we think proper. Bridgewater too stands for just such ideals. A question has been presented two ways—the rest is up to you.

MURIEL LEE ROWELL

We Are Not Free

To be free we must be informed, and many Americans are misinformed. We snatch up isolated sounds and statements, digesting them indiscriminately, indifferent as to whether or not our mental food has been adulterated. Ominous phrases still intrigue us: "labor strikes" . . . "the atomic bomb" . . . "Communist menace" . . . "World War III" . . . but we have slight comprehension of their actual import.

World War II might have been averted but for smug ignorance; now that America has emerged victorious from the battlefield, are her people really any wiser, any more open-minded or intelligent about the crises engulfing them?

The majority are not. We may be slightly more aware of international situations, but we are certainly no better informed. We are still attracted by the speaker with the loudest voice, the most colorful promises, or the most startling bits of sensationalism. We still fail to check the veracity of the propaganda so glibly tossed at us. We are still biased and bigoted; even when we realize this fact, we are generally too lazy to arouse ourselves from stagnant oblivion to do anything about it.

We must develop the power to think critically. It is absurd to be lulled into the belief that it is possible to revert to the pre-war status quo. The world has progressed, and shall continue to progress, whether or not we Americans prefer to ignore what is so inevitable. It is essential that we reach the kernel of new ideas, that we gather specific information from many diverse sources, and that we formulate opinions upon facts, and not upon slogans.

We must revolutionize our mental scope. Because the world has become an inseparable unit, we can no longer live in our isolated little sphere within a sphere. Our breadth of comprehension must be enlarged to encompass all angles of global situations.

Persons who are capable of thinking critically can never be swamped by short-visioned prejudices. Persons who never indulge in analytical thought are the most vulnerable to distortions of the truth. What is said and done by the world powers today will affect us dynamically tomorrow. We must keep ourselves informed. To use our minds now will prevent our bodies from being used as ammunition for another war.

Yes, we so casually mention "freedom"—we so blithely think and say that we are "free". It is tragic that we are so ignorant. We are no longer playing cowboys and Indians on a wild, unsettled territory—we are living in a highly industrialized and mechanized, if not civilized, world of nations. "Freedom" is not merely the release from physical bonds—there are intellectual shackles as well!

B. MAZER

CAMPUS COMMENT

State Teachers College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts

FOR NOVEMBER 2, 1945

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With our lungs full of dust and gripping our brooms, we are again trying to stir up some dirt. So, put on your aprons and tie on your caps, and let's go. . .

We Would Like To Know:

Just where is the cranny that so ably conceals Dr. Maxwell's Sociology book-list? . . . (Watson, my pipe and hat!) . . . What is the cause of the engagement epidemic? . . . How about the lowdown on Jonesy and gang in New York? . . . What is the story on the light over the Bigelow-Lossonc doorway—or are we too young to know?? . . . Who is using Betty Hamlett's closet as a garbage container? . . . Why does Hope prefer pajamas? . . . Just how was Lulu attired when Ken presented her sparkler? . . .

Call A Doctor!

Not too strong—not too mild—just a ha-p-p-y medium!! Is that what your pills are, Bernie, or aren't you talking? Well, you're not the only one with one foot in the grave. We hear that Jack Herman also has enough pills to start a drugstore.

Straight From Headquarters:

"Dorothy Dix" has clarified the situation: "It is all right to date a married man as long as his reputation is good!" (Happy day!) . . . By the by, we understand that Marie Henry is puzzled by reconversion plans. My—these post-war problems are time-consuming. . .

Conditioning Exercises

"Limber up the easy way" is Ilse Chapin's slogan as she emerges with a broken nose and cracked ribs after a date with Roy. . . Incidentally, is Miss Henderson practicing for the big leagues? She can certainly swing a mean coke bottle. . . "Marriage would solve a lot of problems", sighs "Rosie" philosophically, as Oregon looms up bleak, and alien, and awfully imminent. . .

"A Kiss Goodnite"—

Advice from the desk-duty gal: Please do not ring the door-bell until your date is really over. Participation might be thrilling—but observation definitely is not. . . Hearty congrats to Jean Peck (jr.)—it's o.k. with us, cherie, we're broad-minded. . .

Wal, that's a lick and a promise. We'll tickle the dust again next month, and 'til then—"Keep the faith"! (under the auspices of B. McKenzie.)

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EDITORIAL

As this is being written, one quarter of the college year is practically behind us and still, in some classes, textbooks for the course have not arrived. The library does have some of these texts but not enough, unfortunately, to adequately supply the whole class. These books, therefore, are not available at all times, and it generally happens that they are not at our disposal when we most need them. Although these books are on the reserve list, occasionally students forget to return them after the allotted time, and this, of course, makes the distress more acute.

Whether these texts are out of print, or whether the publishing houses are just slow in filling the orders we do not know, but would it not be wise to order the books in the spring for the succeeding year, so that if a situation arose that would delay delivery it could be ironed out during the summer months, and by September the book would be on hand in the bookstore at the beginning of the course?

In the spring the instructors should be able to decide on maintaining the old texts or choosing new ones, just as well as in the fall, thus enabling the students to order books then, and be reasonably certain of securing one before the first quarter of the following year has ended.

M. L. ROWELL

Autumn Altar

Rise up, O Flame, and burn
Thy spears of fire reach high!
Consume the sacrifice!
Rise up to touch the sky!

The offering at thy feet
Regretfully is laid:
The sentinels of spring
By winter's breath betrayed.

Now brown and wizened they
Are skeletons bereft
Of majesty and green.
The soul alone is left.

Exhausted, dying leaves
In too brief glory burn,
And trees their bare arms lift
Awaiting their return.

O Flame, thy work is done.
Where tongues of fire rose high,
Gray smoke alone ascends
As failing embers die.

Helen Sherman

WAA News

What with bare trees shivering under gray skies and fur-clad squirrels scurrying about in preparation for a cold winter, W.A.A. has taken the hint and pulled its collar over its ears, rolled up its tennis courts, moth-balled its hockey equipment and has turned its blue nose toward the warmth of indoor sports for the next sixteen weeks—indoor sports that offer such a diversity of selection, no man and woman member should have difficulty in electing a suitable activity or activities to occupy his spare time and at the same time afford a few hours of fun and relaxation. The interest, value, and enjoyment of clean, free recreation is recognized by all and the

spirit is there, so why not everyone join in for a bang-up good season?

Classes Compete For Plaque

Inter-class competition for the coveted plaque promises games of keen rivalry and action in basketball, particularly with a new crop of breezy freshmen to blow the mustiness and kinks out of the upperclassmen. Last year the class of '47 tripped off with the award but if the playing on the freshman hockey team this fall can be used as an indication of what we might expect during the hoop season, upperclassmen will be doing some tall stepping to keep the plaque in their possession. Dorothy Mackin, basketball activity director, announces Tuesday and Thursday from 4:15 to 5:30 is given over to basketball and urges those interested to watch the gym bulletin boards for further announcements concerning organization, playing schedules, etc.

Bowl with Bolles!

Bowling is looking forward to another bang-up season under the capable leadership of Claire Bolles. The day reserved is Monday afternoon and, if so desired by all the members of the group, any other afternoon where it will fit into the W.A.A. calendar.

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A woman never has a chance,
In marriage it's the same;
The man may only lose his hair,
The woman's lost her name.

No matter what a man may do,
It's termed a "noble feat";
A woman does the same dam thing—
And she's called "indiscreet".

Convention rules a woman's life,
While man's a pioneer;
A man is deemed "original"—
A woman's always "queer".

A man can be a bachelor,
And still have lots of fun;
The bachelor girl just sits at home,
And dreams of things undone.

If women say they're virtuous,
You know their lives are dull;
Men never hear of virtue, yet,
Their sins are always null.

A woman must be saccharine,
A man can take a poke;
For women life's a foolish farce,
For men it's one big joke.

A woman must be delicate,
And tuck her brains away;
What fun men have is "on the cuff"—
But women have to pay.

Yes, men are free, while women are
Just all inhibited;
Those bits of spice that look so nice,
Are all prohibited.

If women have the fortitude,
They're rebels now and then;
Still, in the end, they must contend,
THE WORLD BELONGS TO MEN!!!

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Club News

DRAMATIC CLUB

At the meeting of Dramatic Club on October 9, it was decided to send boxes to past members who are now in the service. David Weinstein was presented a gift by the members at a going-away party held in his honor in Tillinghast Recreation Room. President Kelly and members of the faculty were present.

K-P CLUB

Phyllis Clayman at the first meeting of K.P. Club on September twenty-six welcomed the members. Miss Frances Sullivan, the speaker for the meeting on October third, spoke on reading readiness. Miss Betty Raymond, guest speaker for October nineteen, lectured on Progressive Teaching.

FRENCH CLUB

Initiation of the new members of French Club was held on Thursday, October fourth. Plans are in progress for the Mardi Gras which is to be held in March.

GLEE CLUB

The Glee Club has changed its rehearsal periods from three o'clock to four o'clock Monday afternoons. Rehearsals are being held for the Christmas Program which may be presented over station W.B.Z.

NEWMAN CLUB

Father John Sheehan was the guest speaker for Newman Club on October twenty-four. He spoke on his experiences while a Japanese prisoner in the Philippines.

KAPPA DELTA PI

The pledge ceremony of Kappa Delta Pi will take place on Wednesday afternoon, November 7. The official initiation ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 14.

MENORAH CLUB

A regular meeting of the Menorah Club took place on Wednesday, October 24th, at 4:15 p.m., with Jack Herman, president, presiding. Plans were started for a social hour to be held for the Alumni when they return here November 16th. The guest speaker was Miss Shirley Pincus, Campus Field Secretary of the National Zionist Youth Commission. Refreshments were served.

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Durgin, Meier Return

(continued from page 1)

Meier Sees Action

"My most exciting adventure was flying home", laughed blond, bronzed Captain Meier.

Captain Meier, now on terminal leave, has just returned from the European theatre of war where he was a group adjutant with the Army Air Force.

Upon entering the service, Captain Meier was first sent to Fort Meade, Maryland, where he attended the six weeks special service school of the Army Air Forces. He then spent a short time at Battle Creek, Michigan, with the 313th Troop Carrier Division before being assigned to a base in Florence, South Carolina, where he directed an athletic program.

In March of 1943, Captain Meier was sent overseas and was stationed in North Carolina before being sent to Sicily, where on July 9 and 10 he was with the group that dropped the 82nd Airborne Division in the first of the American attacks.

Captain Meier's group participated in seven campaigns: Sicily, Romano, Salerno, Normandy, Holland, the crossing of the Rhine, and Niemegeen. During the invasion of Normandy, Captain Meier's men dropped the first paratroopers the morning before the invasion, and returned to drop supplies later.

Captain Meier also took part in the early North Africa campaigns. From May until September of 1943 "we helped move the Germans out of the area", he confessed—quite modestly. "Africa was interesting," Captain Meier mused, "but the Arabs are a strange lot."

When coaxed for the narration of his most exciting experience, the handsome young Captain considered quite thoughtfully. "Well", he finally answered, "I guess it was in March of 1944, when we flew from Sicily to England. The Germans had control of the coast. We lost two planes from our outfit—one of them hit a mountain in Casablanca."

Captain Meier was overseas 28 months. "I thought I'd never get home!" he grinned.

Captain Meier graduated from Boston College in 1932. He did graduate work and acted as instructor of chemistry at BTC the following year and was awarded his Master of Science degree in 1933.

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Save With Safety

WAA Conference

(continued from page 1)

At nine o'clock on Friday morning, following a hearty breakfast, all the students of the college and the delegates gathered in May Hall, where they were greeted by President O'Connor and welcomed by Shirley Mason, president of the Framingham W.A.A. The theme of this year's conference was "Our Part in the Post War World" introduced by Mr. Phillip Cummings, a noted commentator on world affairs. Virginia Godfrey, Bridgewater's president of W.A.A., contributed her share of ideas.

Following this, the first business meeting of the conference was held. Mr. Daniel J. Kelly, state supervisor of Physical Education in the schools in Massachusetts gave a very applicable talk on the values of physical education in the schools at present, and as he hopes they will develop in the future. A film containing contributions from all the colleges was shown at this meeting, including swimming, softball, hockey and campus shots. Archery and dancing had been donated by B.T.C.

Following lunch and registration, a second business meeting was held at which Captain Yanko from Cushing General Hospital spoke on the rehabilitation of the veteran. The following ten commandments he stressed: (1) welcome him, but do not overdo this. (2) listen understandingly but do not be too inquisitive. (3) face the reality of any disability. (4) treat him as a normal, competent person. (5) commend efforts to succeed and ignore slips. (6) expect him to be different; help him to become readjusted. (7) allow time and freedom for readjustment. (8) encourage him to do things but do not push him. (9) get professional help if necessary. (10) let your own faith and spirit be your guide.

By the time three o'clock had rolled around on Friday afternoon, the athletically-minded individuals felt the need for some relaxation and muscular activity, so they resorted to a game of basketball with four teams playing against each other. Food followed fun: coffee and doughnuts always hit the spot.

In the evening the Fine Arts club presented their play "Tomorrow The World." Compliments are certainly in order for this performance and fine presentation.

The final business meeting was held Saturday morning, when at that time each college reported on their W.A.A. activities and exchanged ideas.

The final activity on the program was a hike to a spot called "The Ledges," located about two and one half miles from the campus. It was a brisk walk on a cold morning in a setting of glorious autumn foliage, with lots of congeniality, and good humor. With this the conference broke up although those who desired remained to tour Cushing General Hospital.

Ballot

The following cut system has been proposed. Please consider it carefully, indicate your attitude, and deposit this ballot in the box in the rotunda by 3:30 on Friday, November 9.

Total semester cuts will be based on the total number of credit periods taken.

Chapel cuts are to be included in the total.

No excused cuts shall be given for a single day's absence. The first day of an extended absence shall count as a cut day. All others shall be excused if (1) A Doctor's certificate specifying the illness is presented.

(2) The Administration Office is notified by telephone or letter within a specified time.

Freshmen will not be allowed any cuts during the first semester except for illness and college representation.

The regular allowance of cuts may be cancelled for a given period for scholastic failure, probation, or such other causes as may be established by the faculty.

No cuts will be permitted on the day immediately preceding or following a college recess, or a regular or special holiday.

Upperclassmen who, in the previous semester have had no grade lower than B and a quality point ratio of 3.600 may have unlimited cuts exclusive of chapel, Physical Education, laboratory work, and no-cut days. Such students in regard to examinations and other stated requirements will at all times be subject to the provisions of the department in which they have courses. If a student on the unlimited cut list is at any time reported by an instructor to have an average class standing below B, he will be allowed no cuts in that subject for the rest of the semester. An instructor may withdraw the unlimited cut privilege in his course if he deems this to be in the best interest of the student.

Penalties: If a student should over-cut, then he shall be dropped one degree of rank in any class in which his cumulative cuts exceed the number of credit hours.

Please check one of the following:

I am in favor of this plan
as it stands ☐

I am not in favor of this plan
as it now stands ☐

Suggestions

.....

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.....

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